



# Department of Public Health and Human Services

Public Health & Safety Division ♦ Communicable Disease Control & Prevention Bureau

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**Steve Bullock, Governor**

**Richard H. Opper, Director**

April 24, 2013

To: All VFC Providers  
From: Montana Immunization Program  
Re: VFC Pediarix<sup>®</sup> and Pentacel<sup>®</sup> Update: IMPORTANT INFORMATION

As a reminder, Pentacel<sup>®</sup> is not currently available to order from the VFC Program. We anticipate this situation lasting through June. Please DO NOT order Pentacel<sup>®</sup> until further notice.

Unfortunately, the ongoing Pentacel<sup>®</sup> shortage has put supply pressures on other DTaP-containing vaccines, and the CDC has informed us that Pediarix<sup>®</sup> is being put on allocation. Each month, Montana will be given an allocation of Pediarix<sup>®</sup> amounting to one-half of our typical monthly demand. Starting in May, we will be allocating Pediarix<sup>®</sup> to providers just as we have with Pentacel<sup>®</sup> over the last six months. We anticipate demand exceeding our allocation requiring us to cut orders.

Beginning with May orders and until further notice, please adhere to the following guidelines when ordering Pediarix<sup>®</sup> through the Montana VFC Program:

- Order Pediarix<sup>®</sup> along with your other vaccines by following the usual procedure—submitting a paper order form to the Montana Immunization Program.
- Order forms requesting Pediarix<sup>®</sup> must be received by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. This is five days earlier than the usual deadline (15<sup>th</sup>) and will allow us to assess orders and make reductions, if necessary. Orders received after the 10<sup>th</sup> may be excluded from our monthly allocation.
- We will notify you if your order is reduced. You will have an opportunity to modify your order with single-antigen vaccines.
- Please do not over-order Pediarix<sup>®</sup> vaccine. We will continue to evaluate all orders against past usage and will strive to equitably distribute our allocation.
- In the VFC Program, this shortage only affects Pentacel<sup>®</sup> and Pediarix<sup>®</sup> and does not affect single-component DTaP vaccines or other single-antigen vaccines. Please consider switching to these products until the shortage is over.

We are very sorry for the inconvenience. If you have any questions, please contact the Immunization Program at 406-444-5580 or [hhsiz@mt.gov](mailto:hhsiz@mt.gov).